

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on
Student Life
Held on Friday, April 1, 2005
SGW Campus H 769 10:00am**

PRESENT: Mr. K. Pruden, Chair, Ms M. Burns, Secretary, Ms A. Beck, Ms M. Drew, Ms D. Fawaz, Ms H. Fussell, Ms A. Ghadban, Mr. B. Hamideh, Dr. N. Howe, Mr. F. Janmohamed, Mr. O. Moran, Ms S. Novembre, Mr. P. Schiefke, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms K. Sheahan, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. W. Curran, Ms P. Posius, Ms L. Toscano

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mr. R. Côté, Mr. D. Gardhouse, Dr. S. M. Graub, Ms K. Hedrich, Ms S. Jones, Ms L. Lipscombe

ABSENT: Mr. K. Fox, Ms M. Gruber, Ms A. Reid, Mr. J. Brisebois

GUESTS: Ms C. Xydous, Ms B. Agnew

DELEGATES: Ms D. Gleason for Ms. K. Hedrich

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Two items were added to the agenda: Item 4.3 Library Space, and Item 6.3 CCSL Special Projects Fund.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mr. Moran, and seconded by Ms Beck.

The motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Pruden took the opportunity, on behalf of Council, to extend his congratulations to all the winners in the recent student elections.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF March 4, 2005

On page 3 of the minutes, under 5.1 Presentation by Mr. Bill Curran, Director of Libraries: Mr. Curran asked that the phrase "the entire project could take 5 to 10 years" be removed, as it did not accurately reflect his intention.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Janmohamed, and seconded by Ms Beck.

The motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank Report

Mr. Pruden introduced Ms Christina Xydous, coordinator of the Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank, and invited questions from Council concerning the report that had been given at the meeting of January 28, 2005. Ms. Ghadban asked whether the CCSL subsidy included in the budget was from this year or last year. Ms Xydous said she would look into it and report back. Mr. Pruden asked Ms Xydous to submit the final report to CCSL before the next council meeting, along with clarification of the budget.

Mr. Moran suggested that reports be photocopied on both sides in order to save paper.

4.2 Student Health Initiative

Mr. Pruden reminded Council that he had asked everyone to think of some health issues they consider to be short-term priorities. He opened the floor for suggestions. Ms Boujaklian announced that non-smoking pictograms will soon be installed on the stairway landings on various floors.

Ms Posius noted that the food provided at these meetings is not as healthy as it could be. There are healthier options besides cookies. She offered to order the food for the next CCSL meeting, and include a variety of healthy choices. She said Chartwells is trying to be proactive and inform the university of healthy menu options. The offer was gratefully accepted.

Several members suggested that further education about washing hands in the bathroom is necessary. Dr. Shaver remarked that there are not enough trash bins in the washrooms, and paper towels end up on the floors. Ms Toscano noted that the Victoria Gym is extremely dirty and she hopes that the new gym facilities will be better maintained.

Dr. Howe noted that there is a scarcity of places to sit outdoors on campus. Mr. Janmohamed informed Council that last year he had attempted to get the university to purchase additional picnic tables. CSU had to rent extra picnic tables for their orientation events. Ms Posius said the problem is that there is no storage space for the tables during the winter. Mr. Janmohamed suggested that they could be stored on the Terrace, as it is not used in the winter. Ms Beck added that there should be recycling bins outdoors as well as garbage cans.

Ms Sheahan, seconded by Dr. Howe, put forward the following motion:

Be it resolved that CCSL recommend that the University increase access to picnic tables and recycling bins in outdoor lounge space on campus.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Pruden informed Council that he is still researching the procedure for re-organizing the drug and alcohol task force. He suggests that the new committee could include members from Health Services, Counselling & Development, Environmental Health & Safety, Dean of Students office, Recreation and Athletics, Office for Students with Disabilities, CSU, GSA, and a faculty representative.

Ms Drew announced that she and Ms Sheahan are members of the Wellness Concordia Initiative. This group is putting together a document that will map out all the resources available at Concordia. They are expecting to launch it in May 2005. Mr. Janmohamed mentioned that the CSU handbook includes a comprehensive listing of all resources available to students. Mr. Pruden asked Mr. Moran to research what information is given to new students in their orientation packages.

Ms. Boujaklian noted that the Work Centre has a simple number to call for any maintenance problems: 2400. The number reminds users that it is open 24 hours a day.

4.3 Library Space

Mr. Pruden read a draft motion that had been prepared by Mr. Curran:

CCSL recognizes the urgent space needs of our libraries and urges the University to take prompt action addressing the need for additional seating space, study space and group study space, and additional space for collections.

A brief discussion followed. Ms Fussell asked if there was space specifically earmarked for graduate students. Mr. Curran said not at this time, although it is being considered. Hours of operation is a current priority; they would like to be open 24 hours a day during the last month of the semester; now they are open 24 hours for the last two weeks of the semester.

Ms Beck, seconded by Dr. Howe, moved to accept the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously

Mr. Curran informed Council of an article in a book entitled “Educating the Net Generation” about the kinds of needs for library resources of the “net generation”. It is available on the Internet at www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/pub7101.pdf

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

There were no reports.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

6.1 Le Frigo Vert

Mr. Pruden introduced Bronwen Agnew of Le Frigo Vert. Ms Agnew briefly described the activities of Le Frigo Vert, and presented a financial statement from November 2004. She explained that they are facing a \$32000 deficit, and are requesting emergency funds from the University. Ms Gleason circulated a statement of Le Frigo Vert’s revenues from fee levies over the past four years, prepared by Student Accounts.

A lengthy discussion followed. Ms Posius questioned Le Frigo Vert’s connection to Concordia University. She noted that Le Frigo Vert is not a recognized student group, and that other than providing a service for students, they operate independently from the University. Mr. Schiefke and Ms Fawaz asked whether Le Frigo Vert had considered reducing salaries to save money. Ms Agnew replied that they feel it is ethical to provide students with a good living wage. Ms Ghadban noted a discrepancy between the fee levy amounts on the two statements. The Frigo Vert statement includes a lower student fee total than the Student Accounts statement. Given these figures, it is difficult to determine whether Le Frigo Vert actually has a deficit. Ms. Gleason confirmed that the figures on the Student Accounts statement were an accurate reflection of student fees collected for Le Frigo Vert. Mr. Janmohamed noted that Le Frigo Vert’s financial statement did not reflect actual expenses and revenues to date. Ms Sheahan asked whether a liaison should be appointed to facilitate the process. Ms Agnew agreed to get clarification from their accountants and report back to Council with actual figures.

6.2 Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program

Mr. Pruden informed Council that this program had been allocated \$15000 from the CCSL Student Initiated Projects fund. He invited Mr. Schiefke to describe the project to Council. Mr. Schiefke gave an overview of the project, which sends student volunteers to Africa to help build housing in villages. They will be working in connection with Save Our Souls, a non-governmental organization. The long-term goal of the project is to build a village in Concordia’s name. Some

of the housing will then be available to Concordia students for internships abroad. The project has received considerable interest from students wishing to participate, as well as from various sectors of the University. After a brief discussion Council congratulated Mr. Schiefke on the initiative.

6.3 CCSL Special Projects Fund

Mr. Pruden informed Council that there remains between \$50,000 and \$60,000 in the CCSL Student Initiated Project fund at this time. He asked Council to consider what to do with these extra funds, keeping in mind that there is a potential shortfall due to FTEs to consider. He will circulate the exact amount before the next meeting, and suggestions can be brought to the next meeting.

7. New Business

Ms Posius remarked that meal plan vouchers had been issued to the CSU and other departments this year, but none had been used. Was this due to lack of interest or need? She asked for feedback, as she is willing to ask for money again, but needs to report on the efficacy of the program. Mr. Janmohamed noted that in his experience people were more in need of long-term help such as a food bank, rather than an emergency meal voucher. Ms Fussell noted that there was some resistance from students to support Chartwells, and they would rather go to Chaplaincy and get vouchers to buy groceries. Ms Sheahan noted that the coupons came in November, when students are still fairly solvent. She feels that the coupons may be useful in the next four to six weeks.

Mr. Hamideh mentioned an incident that occurred recently at the elevators in the Hall Building. A student got her arm stuck in the door as it was closing, and injured her arm. He said she is very upset and threatened to sue the university. An accident report was made with Security. Ms Boujaklian said she would look into it and report back to Mr. Hamideh. Ms Shaver suggested that the stairwells should be better marked to help avoid overcrowding the elevators.

Ms Posius announced that as a result of a competition, there are presently displays of student artwork in both the 7th floor cafeteria and international café in the Hall Building. She encouraged Council to drop by and peruse the artwork.

8. Next Meeting: May 6, 2005 LOY Campus AD 210 10am

9. Termination of Meeting

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms Sheahan and seconded by Ms Beck.

The motion was carried unanimously